ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. - 020431.0977

PATENT Serial No. 09/686,731 AF 2144

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

in re Application of:

William L. Eason et al.

Serial No.:

09/686,731

Filing Date:

October 10, 2000

Group Art Unit:

2144

Examiner:

Lambert L. Tran

Title:

WORKFLOW ENCAPSULATION IN STATELESS

ENVIRONMENTS

Mail Stop AF

Honorable Commissioner

for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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JUN 2 4 2004

Technology Center 2199

Dear Sir:

RESPONSE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

In response to the final Office Action mailed April 21, 2004, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the rejection of the claims in view of the following amendments and remarks.